

Amendments to the Claims

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A method for preventing the onset of asthma in an infant or child in need thereof, which comprises administering to the infant or child a therapeutically effective amount of cetirizine, an individual optical isomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (New) A method for preventing the onset of asthma in an infant or child in need thereof, which comprises administering to the infant or child prophylactically prior to the onset of asthma a therapeutically effective amount of cetirizine, an individual optical isomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. (New) A method for preventing the sensitisation of an infant or child at risk of developing an asthma disease, which comprises administering to the infant or child a therapeutically effective amount of cetirizine, an individual optical isomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (New) The method according to any one of claims 12, 13 or 14, wherein the salt is cetirizine dihydrochloride.

16. (New) The method according to any one of claims 12, 13 or 14, wherein the infant or child is 1 to 4 years of age.

17. (New) The method according to any one of claims 12, 13 or 14, which comprises administering a daily dosage from about 0.0005 mg to about 2 mg of said cetirizine, said individual optical isomer thereof, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, per kg of body weight of the infant or child.

18. (New) The method according to claim 17, which comprises administering a daily dosage of about 0.05 mg to about 1 mg per kg of body weight of the infant or child.

19. (New) The method according to any one of claims 12, 13 or 14, which comprises administering said cetirizine, said individual optical isomer thereof, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, from 1 to 3 times a day.

20. (New) The method according to any one of claims 12, 13 or 14, wherein said cetirizine, said individual optical isomer thereof, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered orally.

21. (New) A method of making a pharmaceutical composition for preventing the onset of asthma in a patient, which comprises mixing cetirizine, an individual optical isomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.